RTime

**R**elationships **t**o **Im**prove **E**ducation

Our school-wide character program is called R Time.

**R Time** is a structured program for schools that develops positive relationships between children. It does this by creating an environment that supports and enhances good manners, respect, and citizenship. This will accelerate learning, emphasize respect, and raise self-esteem. R Time uses 'Random Pairing' in conjunction with interesting, non-threatening, and easily achievable activities for children. It also contributes greatly to reduce bullying. The lessons will be taught to the students on a weekly basis by their classroom teacher. The key part of R Time lessons are the rules. They will be posted in the cafeteria, hallways, gym, restrooms, office and every classroom. We want the students to see and follow these rules everyday. The rules are:

* Show good manners at all times
* Follow instructions with thought and care
* Care for everyone and everything

Our desire is for the students to carry over what they are learning into all aspects of their lives. Please praise your children when they show good manners, follow your instructions, and show care and concern for others. You might even want to post the rules at your home so that you can emphasize them daily. We hope that you will ask your children about the R Time lesson each week as well! With parents and teachers working together to instill these positive qualities in our children, we will create an atmosphere of respect, courtesy, and good behavior both at home and school.

If you have any questions about R Time please contact your child’s teacher, the counselor, or the principal!

Tammy Zeller Christy Weete Audrey Robinson

Principal Assistant Principal Counselor

 \*\*The back of this letter explains the 5 parts of an R Time lesson\*\*

The essence of the R time approach is the combination of 5 component parts within weekly sessions lasting between 15 - 20 minutes:

**Random Pairing**

The children work each time with a different partner enabling them to work with all of the children in the class.

**Introductions**

Once the children are in pairs they greet one another with a positive statement. For example: "Hello my name is Simon. I'm glad you're my partner today Sarah.”

**The Activity**

There are 30 short, easily achievable, age appropriate activities for the children to do with their partner.

**Process**

The children feed back their experiences to the whole group and the teacher helps them reflect on their learning.

**Conclusion**

At the end of the session the children thank their partner and say something positive to finish.